

- Permeable membrane for gas separation - comprises asymmetric polysulphone support layer coated with a polymeric separation layer.

L20 ANSWER 110 OF 121 WPINDEX COPYRIGHT 2002 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

AN 1989-033498 [05] WPINDEX

DNC C1989-014525

DC A26 A88 J01

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CYC 15

PI EP 301597 A 19890201 (198905)* EN 14p

R: BE DE ES FR GB IT SE

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CA 1320026 C 19930713 (199334)

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R: BE DE ES FR GB IT SE

DE 3885527 G 19931216 (199351)

ES 2045034 T3 19940116 (199407)

KR 9303213 B1 19930423 (199421)

ADT EP 301597 A EP 1988-112389 19880729; JP 01111421 A JP 1988-190734

19880801; US 4881954 A US 1987-80476 19870731; US 4990165 A US 1989-413094

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1988-112389 19880729; KR 9303213 B1 KR 1988-9779 19880729

FDT JP 05029490 B Based on JP 01111421; DE 3885527 G Based on EP 301597; ES

2045034 T3 Based on EP 301597

PRAI US 1987-80476 19870731

AN 1989-033498 [05] WPINDEX

AB EP 301597 A UPAB: 19930923

A composite permeable membrane (I) for gas sepn. is claimed comprising:

(a) a porous, polymeric asymmetric support layer having a dense semi-permeable skin (II) and a less dense, porous support region; and (b) a sepn. layer (III) deposited on (II), but not altering the structure of the support layer; (III) having a selectivity for the more readily permeable component of a gas mixt. equal to or greater than those of (II). (I) is pref. in the form of a hollow fibre.

A process for prepn. of (I) is also claimed in which the support layer is produced in a porous form, washed, dried and then exposed to a temp. approaching the Tg of the membrane material under non-swelling conditions for a time sufficient to form asymmetry in the membrane with increased compaction resistance and collapse pressure. Opt. (II) can be deposited on the support layer before or after treatment to form asymmetry. Also claimed is the use of (I) to separate gas mixts., pref. air (into O2 and N2), or mixts. of H2 and N2, or mixts. of CO2 and CH4. An asymmetric membrane comprising the support layer (a) and having enhanced gas separation characteristics is also claimed.

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